

# THE CHRISTIAN HERALD.

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[No. 16.

## PROCEEDINGS

*Of the GENERAL MISSIONARY CONVENTION of the Baptist denomination in the United States of America, for Foreign Missions, assembled in Sansom-street Meeting-house, Philadelphia, the 7th of May, 1817.*

The meeting was opened with an appropriate hymn and solemn prayer by the president.

The delegates and proxies from Mission Societies, Associations, and Churches, upon producing credentials duly certified, took their seats.

The Rev. RICHARD FURMAN, D. D. was elected President, and the Rev. DANIEL SHARP, Secretary.

The Board offered to the Convention the following ADDRESS.

The Baptist Board of Foreign Missions have, for the first time, the pleasure of addressing the General Convention. They rejoice in the return of another meeting of your beloved and venerable body, and pray that the spirit of wisdom and counsel, the fear of the Lord, and a sacred zeal for his glory, may animate and direct your consultations and endeavours.

In the first and second Annual Reports, a summary of the proceedings of the Board, from the period of their appointment, has been given. Any additional information that may be desired, you will have an opportunity of collecting from the whole of the minutes of their body, which are submitted to your perusal.

Since the publication of the last Report, the services which, in the course of Providence, the Board has been called to fulfil, have been comparatively few. They have, however, with pleasure witnessed the success which has attended measures formerly adopted; and derive from the review fresh motives to gratitude and exertion.

Intelligence has been received of the arrival of our dear missionary friends in India. By the brethren at Calcutta, and at the Mission House at Serampore, they were welcomed with the accustomed hospitality of those eminent servants of God.

Mrs. Charlotte H. White, who accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Hough, had her views, in common with theirs, directed to Burmah. Her expectations, by a controlling Providence, have been disappointed. An important missionary station is established at Digah, near Patna, between 3 and 400 miles above Serampore. Mr. Joshua Rowe, of the English Baptist Mission, is there engaged. He solicited, and obtained a union in marriage with Mrs. White. The step appears to have been approved by the brethren of the Serampore Mission House. She has now the care of a large school (a station for which she is excellently qualified) where a directress was greatly needed, and is introduced into a sphere of respectability, usefulness, and comfort. The Board consider it their duty to state to the Conven-

tion, that not a cent of expense has arisen to the Institution from sending Mrs. White (now Mrs. Rowe) to the East. She supported herself entirely while she continued in America, and from her own funds procured her outfit. Two hundred dollars besides she left in the hands of the Treasurer, which, as she is now connected with the English mission, the Board is of opinion ought to be returned to her. May she prove in her new situation like Priscilla, a helper in the Lord Jesus. Dr. Carey says, "I consider her marriage as a very providential circumstance. At Digah she cannot fail of being useful." Dr. Hinton, Assistant Secretary of the English Baptist Society, ingeniously observes, that "England and America have plighted hands at a missionary altar, by their respective representatives, Mr. Rowe and Mrs. White. Every one augurs good from their union."

Soon after the arrival of brother Hough in India, he applied for a passage on board a brig from Calcutta for Rangoon. He carried with him, as a present from the Serampore brethren, a printing press, types, paper, and other articles. Some serious difficulties occurred in his descending the Hoogly river (which are detailed at large in a communication now presented) and constrained his return to Calcutta. The difficulties were such as call for the sympathy of every feeling, and especially of every parental bosom. Some loss to the mission has been sustained; but it is such as may reasonably be sometimes expected, yet such as it is hoped will not frequently occur. He embarked a second time on the 17th of September, 1816, and has arrived safely at his destination. Brother Judson appears much pleased with him as a missionary associate. May he prove eminently useful. At Rangoon a church has been formed. This it is believed is the first church ever constituted in that empire on the real basis of the Gospel; and surely our denomination throughout the United States must feel themselves sacredly pledged for its support.

By communications from the brethren at Rangoon, it appears that they are increasingly encouraged in their important work. Brother Judson and wife are truly valuable persons. He has laboured under indisposition for some months past, but is in a good degree recovered. He has composed a tract in the Burman language, which brother Hough will be able to print immediately. Of this difficult language he appears to be already master, and is both facilitating its acquisition for associates and successors, and progressing in the translation of the scriptures of truth. May his life be preserved for many years to come. More missionaries in Burmah are anxiously desired.

The Board cannot, they wish not to conceal from you, that in the discharge of their internal duties they have experienced much embarrassment and obstruction. Convinced of the integrity of their aims, and of the propriety and importance of the measures they have pursued and accomplished, they respectfully ask of the Convention an attentive investigation of their conduct, and an avowal of the sentiments of your body whether it deserves censure or support.

Suggestions which have been offered relative to the propriety of altering, in some points, the Constitution of the Convention, the Board have taken into serious consideration. They apprehend that instruments of this description ought to be held as sacred as possible, so that changes occur only when imperious necessity or a conviction of solid advantage shall require them. They have reason to believe that bequests have been made to the Convention, which a variation of the title might render precarious. But from the experience of three years, and the best light they have been able to obtain, they are of opinion that the following alterations will be beneficial, and are expedient, *viz.* That the powers of this Convention be extended so as to embrace home missions and plans for the encouragement of education; and that henceforward the quorum of the Board for the transaction of business be five.

A communication from our Agent, Mr. Rice, relative to his late tour, has been laid before the Board, to which we refer you. Until the present time he has been employed in the United States for originating and encouraging mission institutions, and for organizing and establishing a system of general intercourse. It is obvious that many important advantages have resulted from this measure. The distinct sense of the Convention, however, upon the propriety of continuing such an agency, it would be proper the Board should possess.

The Board are deeply convinced of the propriety of immediate attention to the state of the Indians of our own country. Habits of civilization among them will necessarily be connected with the reception of the Gospel. They are heathen which from their proximity have a special claim upon your pious zeal. It is believed that suitable persons can be obtained to go among them. Large fields also are to be found, especially in the western sections of our country, where the truths of the Gospel are rarely, if ever proclaimed.

Several very interesting documents have been received from India, which the Board have the pleasure of presenting to you. They rejoice that the cause of God is evidently increasing in the earth, and trust the time is not remote when the kingdoms shall become the Lord's.

The Board are sensible that the means usually employed by the Supreme Head of the church for the advancement of undefiled religion is the preaching of the Divine Word, and that it is of importance that the preacher be furnished as extensively as possible for his important work. They respectfully call your attention to the general subject of education, and hope your wisdom may contrive means for the advancement of this important object.

The labours of the Corresponding Secretary, greatly diversified and extended, must, as the Board are sensible, necessarily occupy a large portion of his time, and require much care and exertion. The Board respectfully submit to the Convention the propriety of an expression of their opinion, as to his receiving a reasonable compensation. With sentiments of Christian esteem,

By order of the Board,

HORATIO G. JONES, Rec. Sec. pro. tem.

The documents referred to in the foregoing Address were read, *viz.* a communication from the Agent to the Corresponding Secretary of the Board ; a fraternal and very excellent letter from the Rev. misssionaries, Dr. Carey, Dr. Marshman, and Mr. Ward, Serampore ; communications from our missionary brethren, Mr. Judson, and Mr. Hough, *viz.* letters from Mr. Hough while at Calcutta ; letters and communications frōm Mr. Judson at Rangoon : and a joint communication from Messrs. Judson and Hough after Mr. Hough's arrival at Rangoon.

The Corresponding Secretary of the Board communicated to the Convention, that information had been received by himself and the Agent from a very large proportion of the numerous associations in the United States, that Secretaries to hold correspondence with the Secretary of the Board are generally appointed ; and that the whole Baptist denomination throughout our country appear to have caught the holy flame, and are entering with increasing zeal upon the work of extending the knowledge of the Lord from the river to the ends of the earth. Communications from Auxiliary Mission Societies are equally animating.

[The following are some of the amendments to the Constitution, and of the resolutions reported by a Committee which were adopted.]

1. That the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions for the United States have full power at their discretion to appropriate a portion of the funds to *domestic* missionary purposes, in such parts of this country where the seed of the Word may be advantageously cast, and which mission societies on a small scale do not effectively reach.

2. When competent and distinct funds shall have been raised for that purpose, from these, without resorting at all to mission funds, the Board shall proceed to institute a Classical and Theological Seminary, for the purpose of aiding pious young men who, in the judgment of the churches of which they are members, and of the Board, possess gifts and graces suitable to the gospel ministry.

Resolved, unanimously, That the Convention view with peculiar pleasure the existence and operations of the *American Bible Society*, and that they will be happy, so far as the nature of their Institution admits, to co-operate with them in the great object of circulating the Word of God in this or any other country ; and that the Corresponding Secretary of the Board be requested to communicate to the said Bible Society this resolution.

Resolved, unanimously, That the President of the Convention be requested to address a letter to the President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, expressive of the high sense which this Convention entertain of the important and extensive blessings which have resulted from their unwearied labours of love, in printing and distributing the Holy Scriptures to our fellow beings of different nations and languages ; and particularly for the kind aid afforded to our brethren at Serampore, engaged in translating and printing the Scriptures in the languages of the East.

Resolved, unanimously, That the Convention earnestly recommend to the churches throughout our country, to **UNITE IN THE**

GENERAL CONCERT PRAYER MEETING, on the *first Monday of every month*, for the purpose of imploring the blessing of Almighty God on missionary efforts.

Letters from two young brethren, James Colman and Edward W. Wheelock, expressing their ardent desires to go out as missionaries to Burnah, were read, together with honourable testimonials from their tutor, the Rev. Mr. Chaplin. Their case was referred to the Board.

Also, letters from the Rev. William B. Johnson, and Rev. James A. Ranaldson, relative to New-Orleans and its neighbourhood; from the Rev. Humphrey Posey and others, relative to the Cherokee Indians; from the Rev. John Young, relative to Indians in the vicinity of Michilimackinac; and from the Rev. Isaac M'Coy, relative to the Missouri Territory, &c. were referred to the Board.

A letter from the Corresponding Secretary of the Richmond African Baptist Missionary Society was read.

Resolved, unanimously, That the said letter be noticed on the minutes of the Convention, and that the Board, if they find it practicable, be advised to institute an *African Mission*, conformably to the wishes of the said African Mission Society; and that the Corresponding Secretary of the Board be requested to communicate this resolution, together with an encouraging affectionate letter to that Society.

Upon a request of the President that the sense of the body relative to the permanent character of the Convention should be expressed,

Resolved, unanimously, That it be entered on the records as the deliberate sense of this body, that the delegates and proxies, or their substitutes, appointed by the Mission Societies, Associations, and Churches, united in the General Missionary Convention, do continue as constituting the said Convention till the time of the next triennial meeting.

The subsequently named persons were elected as the Board of Missions for three years, *viz.*

Rev. Thomas Baldwin, D. D. *Mass.*; Rev. Lucius Bolles, A. M. *Mass.*; Rev. William Staughton, D. D. *Penn.*; Rev. Horatio G. Jones, A. M. *Penn.*; Rev. Daniel Sharp, A. M. *Mass.*; Rev. John Williams, *New-York*; Rev. Burgis Allison, D. D. *New-Jersey*; Thomas Shields, Esq. *Penn.*; Rev. John Healey, *Maryland*; Rev. Barnabas Bates, A. M. *R. I.*; Rev. George Roberts, *North Carolina*; Rev. William Warder, *Kentucky*; Rev. Elisha Cushman, *Connecticut*; Rev. John Peck, *New-York*; Rev. Spencer H. Cone, *Dist. Colum.*; Rev. Thomas Roberts, *Pennsylvania*; Rev. Lewis Leonard, *N. Y.*; John Cauldwell, Esq. *New-York*; Rev. Rob. B. Semple, A. M. *Va.*; Rev. Edward Baptist, A. M. *Va.*; Rev. Richard Furman, D. D. *S. C.*; Hon. Matthias B. Tallmadge, Esq. *N. Y.*; Rev. Jesse Mercer, *Georgia*; Rev. Archibald Maclay, *New-York*; Rev. John P. Peckworth, *Penn.*; Rev. James M'Laughlin, *New-Jersey*; Rev. John M. Roberts, D. D. *S. C.*; Rev. Jeremiah Vardeman, *Kentucky*; Rev. Ste-

phen Gano, *Rhode Island*; Mr. George F. Curwen, *Penn.*; Mr. John Bradley, *Penn.*

Resolved, unanimously, That his Excellency Gabriel Slaughter, Esq. of Kentucky; Robert C. Foster, Esq. of Tennessee; his Excellency William Rabun, Esq. and Charles I. Jenkins, Esq. of Georgia; Gen. Abner Forbes, of Vermont; Hon. Mark Harris, of Maine, and Cornelius Paulding, Esq. of Louisiana, be elected honorary members of this Convention, and that the Corresponding Secretary of the Board be requested to communicate to them respectively this resolution.

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*From the Albany Gazette and Daily Advertiser.*

SUNDAY FREE SCHOOLS.

The invention and prosperous experiment of a new mode of instruction by Dr. Bell and Mr. Lancaster, combined with the happy thought of Mr. Raikes in regard to Sunday schools, have opened a way for common and religious education, which the world never before has witnessed. These were necessary to accomplish the plan which commenced in the distribution of the Holy Scriptures; unless those to whom the Scriptures are given can read and understand the great principles of the book put into their hands, the work of charity is in vain. The ignorant of every class and age should be taught to know and appreciate the great moral and religious truths contained in the Bible; thus, an open door is presented to Bible societies, and one charity helps another. Sunday schools have been established in this city (and to their praise be it recorded) chiefly by young persons of serious minds and estimable deportment, who have turned their attention to all classes, ages, and complexions. Much good has already been done, and more is promised. The efforts of those engaged, (though all tending to the same grand object) have been desultory, and without general concert.

Aware that "combined exertion is powerful exertion," and will more readily accomplish the objects, meetings were called to carry into effect the plan of one general "Sunday School Society in the city of Albany." The result of these meetings will be seen in their proceedings which follow, and the constitution which has been adopted.—Subscribers to the amount of not less than 75 cents, will have the pleasure of performing a charitable act, and of opening the way for the march of the gospel through the ranks of vice and ignorance.

At an adjourned meeting of the patrons and friends of Sunday Schools, held at the capital on Monday evening, the 21st instant, agreeable to the resolution passed at the last meeting, the Hon. ELISHA JENKINS, Esq. was appointed chairman, and LUKE LYONS, secretary.

After reading the minutes of the last meeting, the report of the board of inspectors of the "Sunday Free School Society for the benefit of Africans" and the constitution, which at a previous meeting was referred to a committee of revision, it was

*Resolved,* That the constitution be adopted, and to proceed immediately to the election of officers.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected—

*E. Jenkins*, President; *S. Van Rensselaer*, 1st Vice President; *Simeon De Witt*, 2d Vice President; *Arch'd M'Intyre*, 3d Vice President; *John Woodworth*, 4th Vice President; *Thomas W. Ford*, Treasurer; *Luke Lyons* Secretary.

*Committee.*—George Upfold, T. Sedgwick, Esq., Christian Miller, Philip S. Parker, Esq., Isaac Hutton, William Stillwell, Isaiah Townsend, William Mayell, Roderick Sedgwick, Isaac Lucas, James Gibbons, Isaac G. Hutton, and John Taylor, Jun.

#### REPORT

##### *Of the Board of Inspectors of the Albany Sunday Free School Society for the benefit of Africans.*

The Board of Inspectors of the Albany Sunday Free School Society for the benefit of Africans, in submitting to the Society, the report of their proceedings during the last year, would rather, by a plain narrative of facts, than by varnished eulogium, call forth the best emotions of the philanthropic heart.

And while we thus lay before you a statement of the progress and present state of the schools under your patronage; your board of inspectors think it necessary to recapitulate a few facts respecting their origin; still, however, referring those who feel desirous of retracing their history more at large, to the newspapers of March, 1816, printed in this city.

It was about the seventh day of the January preceding that a Sunday school was first opened in the school room of Mr. G. Upfold, Van Tromp Street, for the long neglected descendants of Africa. The attendants were numerous beyond all expectation. Mrs. U—, her worthy and pious neighbours, and the females of her household, for some time, were thus benevolently engaged. Shortly after, two of their largest rooms were required for the accommodation of the scholars, and even these soon became insufficient.

This brilliant attack on the vitals of ignorance and sloth, which many of the friends of humanity had long but indolently wished for, was not lost on those who were its constant witnesses.

Stimulated by the example, a few young men, on the 25th of February, opened a school in the Uranian Hall, for male Africans; where persons of every age, to the number of sixty, assembled to receive instruction. In a few weeks, the number was considerably increased; and, on the 10th of March, in the presence of several gentlemen who had assembled at the school before the hours of exercise to aid the institution, it was proposed to form a society for the purpose of superintending and providing for the support of such institutions; and thereupon committees were appointed to make the necessary preparations; and on the 18th of March, a meeting was held in the Capitol, where a Society was formed under the name of the Sunday Free School Society for the benefit of Africans.

Addresses explanatory of the object were delivered by the Rev. T. Clowes, and Theodore Sedgwick, Esq., a Constitution presented by P. S. Parker, Esq., in behalf of a committee appointed as above, was read and accepted ; and officers for the ensuing year were chosen.

It was soon found necessary to remove the overflowing school of Mrs. Upfold and her associates to a capacious room in the Uranian Hall, where it has continued to this day.

The invincible perseverance with which those who voluntarily took upon them the arduous work of teaching according to the usual plan of education, certainly deserve our highest gratitude and admiration. The progress of the scholars, both in the male and female Schools, has been such as to afford gratification and encouragement to the superintendents and teachers. The average number attending the school throughout the year has been about two hundred.

Though highly interesting, it would go beyond the intentions of this report, should we enumerate the many instances of persons, both old and young, who have entered without a knowledge of the alphabet, and are now able to spell and read : while the assiduity which is generally perceptible, but particularly amongst those of riper years, is truly interesting. At once may be seen, poring on an alphabet, or pursuing lessons immediately subsequent, a child of 4 years of age—youth—and maturer years. And even declining age, which has reached its 78th year, without despairing that it will gain a tolerable height, ascends with youthful alacrity the hill of knowledge.

And though equally interesting, it would be departing still further from our original intentions should we enter into detail of the establishment of similar institutions ; yet there is one, which, to neglect to mention, would be an injury to the common cause. We cannot but view it as the forerunner of a system, which if generally adopted, would banish ignorance from the earth. We recognize in this Institution a practical refutation of almost every objection that the indolent and indifferent can raise against the establishment of Sunday Schools.

A young lady, the assistant and coadjutor of the worthy matron who first in the city designed, and with her own hands put in operation, Sunday Schools for Africans, warmed in the radiance of this glowing benevolence, without finanical aid—without a school room—almost without the assistance of friends, and with but little practice in the art of teaching, subdues her native diffidence, and spreads around the village the gladsome tidings, that the dawn of mental emancipation is at hand. In a kitchen, or when the rigour of the season will permit, even in a less commodious apartment, she is content to assemble the ready applicants. Thus in the southern part of Saratoga County, has a Sunday School for female Africans, for many months past existed ; and where such benevolence and such thirst of knowledge incite to exertion, to add, that rapid improvement is the consequence, were almost an affront to your understanding.

The number of scholars in this prosperous little seminary is about eighteen : and, thus, we conceive, is presented to view, what similar benevolence may always be able to achieve.—Wherever the sons of Africa have been offered for sale, and wherever their descendants remain at least in mental slavery ; there, by following this humble, yet illustrious example, may be advanced the cause of humanity—the reign of heaven.

In Schenectady, we learn with pleasure, that several young gentlemen of Union College have laudably engaged in the instruction of Africans. In the city of Troy, a Sunday School Society is formed ; which has under its direction four schools, one of which is exclusively for persons of colour : and in the numerous Institutions of the kind in New-York, they are usually taught at the same time with white persons ; but in separate classes.

Besides these, with which, in general, we have but lately become acquainted, many of us were hardly conscious of the existence of any similar institution ; while we were equally unknown to that zealous and active institution, THE NEW-YORK MANUMISSION SOCIETY ; as was acknowledged by the worthy Chairman of their Standing Committee, Mr. Joseph Curtis. These facts afford us the strongest arguments in favour of giving to the transactions of institutions like this, the greatest possible publicity.

Should we in this report pass over in silence the disinterested labours of Mr. Curtis while in this city, we should conceive ourselves guilty of unpardonable ingratitude.

He inquired for, and with inexpressible delight, heard that in Albany there were friends of Africans, alike zealous and active. During the time he spent in this city, he constantly attended our schools ; and with his assistance the Institution under your patronage has been placed on the plan of that excellent school in Flat-Bush, near New-York—conducted by the Manumission Society.

By this means, we are persuaded, that, while the expenditures of the Society, by the introduction of Lancasterian cards, &c. will be less, the improvement of the scholars will be facilitated, and the labour of the teachers diminished.

With respect to the *improvement* of the scholars, we might here speak in stronger terms. By the regular system now introduced we can more minutely note their progress ; and particularly in the first classes we have witnessed more rapid advances.

Since the introduction of these improvements, for which we shall ever consider ourselves obliged to Mr. Curtis, we have entered on the list of scholars *one hundred and twenty-four* females, and *sixty-two* males. Total, 186, of which 56 at least are slaves.

Were it not digressing too far from the business before us, we might here indulge in congratulations with the New-York Manumission Society, on the success that has attended the bill they have presented to the honorable Legislature, which in their wisdom and benevolence they have during the present session passed for promoting the final abolition of slavery in this state. We might congratulate every friend to the rights of man—to the honor of his country.

But thus much will we say, we perceive no reasons for remission in our exertions ; but, if possible, we feel it a duty of redoubled magnitude, to give, especially to those whom the laws of their country shall ere long pronounce *free*, that knowledge which shall at least enable them to read their bible ; and, if possible, lead to that rectitude of conduct, by which, when they step forth in the dignity of man, they may support that dignity.

Did we suspect that the truth of these observations could possibly escape this society, we might here particularly enforce it. And while we recommend to this society, a union with other similar societies in this city, we by no means would be understood as abandoning the object for which we at first associated. We herein seek its welfare.

It is with pleasure that the Board of Inspectors announce to you that such societies have been formed, and that they have expressed a desire (which has occasioned a delay of our annual meeting) of uniting you previously to the election of officers for the ensuing year, so as to embrace and promote by a general union and exertion the common object of affording instruction, religious and moral, to the poor and illiterate of every age, sex, and complexion.

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#### JUVENILE DEPARTMENT.

##### SEVEN YEARS AGO.

You must know, Sir, that as soon as I opened my eyes this morning, the beautiful frost-work on my window brought to my recollection, as vividly as though it had been but yesterday, the fine bright January morning seven years ago, when I awoke in this very chamber in the highest spirits imaginable, with the joyful consciousness of being fourteen. My imagination being then somewhat more sportive than it is at present, formed a sort of indistinct association between the fantastic coruscations of the frosty panes, and my future fortunes. I could imagine groves, spires, cascades, and wide spreading landscapes, representing the bright scenes of life through which I was about to pass. But not to detain you with these chimeras, I arose, as I observed, with a fine flow of spirits ; proceeding, not only from a sense of present happiness, but from a sanguine contemplation of the fair series of youthful days that lay as it were, outstretched before my view. In seven years I should come of age ; and the interval between the present time and that distant date, appeared abundantly sufficient to accomplish all to which my ambition could possibly aspire. I reflected, with exultation, on the vast proficiency I should inevitably make in every thing good and desirable, should my life be prolonged to that period. It was my privilege, Sir, to have parents, not only kind and indulgent, but such as took the most judicious and unremitting pains with the education of their children ; so that I was too well instructed to be looking forward to a succession of vain pleasures and empty frivolous pursuits. I was well aware, that to store my mind with every kind of useful knowledge, to cultivate a good taste, to conquer bad habits, to cherish

amiable dispositions, and, above all, to choose our heavenly Father to be the guide of my youth and my portion for ever, were the only objects worthy the ambition of an intelligent being : and I believe I did feel a sincere desire and intention so to improve my time and opportunities. But without calculating upon past failures,—forgetting the time already wasted, advantages neglected, resolutions broken, and the like :—and without forming any *distinct* plan, or laying any *solid* foundation for future success in resisting temptation and pressing through difficulties,—I imagined that the mere *extent of time* that was before me, must ensure it, and effect all I desired. What could not be done in *seven years*!

I was, indeed, aware that much remained to be done : with some thirst for knowledge; I was conscious of a constant aversion to steady application, which occasioned my being, at this time, behind hand with many of my juniors. My disposition was not otherwise than affectionate ; but my temper being proud and irritable, caused much uneasiness both to myself and to my friends. I had frequent disputes with my brothers and sisters ; and often indeed behaved very unbecomingly to my kind parents ; and, bitterly as I always repented it afterwards, still the principle was unsubdued. With regard to religion, though I was too well instructed not to have, at times, very serious thoughts and some uneasiness on the subject, still I stopped short, where so many do, at *wishes* and *intentions*. I was, however, extremely dissatisfied with this state of things ; and there was nothing good, or even great, that I did not fully *intend* to be by the time my education should be completed. And the elasticity of my spirits on that cheerful morning, the vigour of body and mind I then experienced, together with the sanguineness of my temper, made me readily believe that all I wished would certainly be accomplished.

I spent the day merrily with my companions ; not troubling myself about my plans of reformation on that day, because it was my *birth-day*. The next morning, however, I did rise an hour earlier than usual : for early rising was one of the good habits I intended to acquire, it being one on which, as my dear father used to say, all the rest very greatly depended. Being not a little pleased with myself on this account, I came in to breakfast, after an hour's pleasant application, in great good humour :—got over two or three little provocations without expressing resentment :—and applied to all my pursuits very assiduously the whole day. Now I imagined every difficulty conquered. The next day I rose but one quarter of an hour later :—only answered *rather* impatiently when my elder brother contradicted me :—and omitted nothing of my business but getting one of my French verbs. But on the third day, it being a raw dismal morning, the bell as usual rang for prayers before I had finished dressing. This put me out. It is not easy to keep a good humour and a bad conscience at the same time. I gave the first person who spoke to me a cross answer—had one dispute with my brother, and two with my sister before dinner—sat down to my lessons in an idle mood, and did them all indiffer-

ently—and at night hurried over my prayers just as carelessly as usual.

Thus passed that unpromising day. But what will you say, Sir, when I inform you, that with a few exceptions, such as I have described above, when under the influence of some present stimulus, or new formed resolution—it is a pretty fair specimen of all the rest from that period to the present moment! I do not deny, indeed, but that I have made some progress in the various branches of education, or that some of my more childish failings have been superceded by maturer and less obvious faults; but I must say, that upon comparing what I now am with what I intended to be seven years ago, or even with what I might reasonably have hoped to be, my disappointment is complete. Nor am I able to alleviate it by laying the blame upon my education. I have enjoyed fair opportunities—had every thing to stimulate and to encourage me; but I wanted that strength of mind, that steady resolution, that constant unfailing effort to resist *small* temptations, and to conquer *slight* difficulties—which makes the grand difference between the strong and the weak, the virtuous and the unworthy—between the Christian and the cumberer of the ground. Besides, instead of profiting by past experience, I was perpetually placing an unwarrantable dependence on the future. As one year after another passed away, I still hoped better things from the next and the next,—and ever yielding to the dangerous illusion, neglected to make the effort needful to the *present moment*. Oh, to look back upon those golden opportunities!

How vast a difference, at this period of life, between *seven years ago* and *seven years to come*! However they may have misimproved the past, the future—the fair, bright, promising future, is still unconsumed, unwasted:—that period of life of all others the most important, because upon it the formation of the character almost entirely depends, is yet, as it were, in their own power. Let them not suppose that it depends upon the particular bent of their genius, or cast of their disposition, whether or not they are to rise above the common level of intellectual and moral excellence: nor yet upon the exertions of their parents and teachers: it depends, under God, upon *their own exertions*. All things are possible, I believe Sir,—all things, at least, that are good and desirable for us, —to *persevering effort*: and without this, as I so well know, seven years, or seven times seven will do nothing for us: nothing, however but strengthen bad habits, weaken good resolutions, and remove opportunities of improvement. Those temptations to delay and negligence which we feel to-day, will as assuredly return to-morrow as the morning light: and return too with increased force, though increased in too imperceptible a degree to give the alarm.

Perhaps some may imagine that however it may be with regard to other things, I have yet time enough before me for religion, and have little occasion to reproach myself for not being quite decided in that respect at the age of twenty-one. Alas! Sir, I need not tell you that this is the most grievous part of my complaint, and

the true source of all the rest. Had I but listened to the admonitions of scripture, reason, and conscience, and given myself up to them in earnest seven years ago, all that I wished would have followed of course. Religion, you know, Sir, is a sure remedy for carelessness, frivolity, slothful habits, and evil tempers. I believe, indeed, that it makes hard things easy, and irksome things pleasant.

Besides this, although it is not, I hope, too late for me or any one, yet I believe it is not possible for one who has been favoured with a religious education to resist for seven years the convictions of conscience, to suffer all the impressions made by sermons, the admonitions of friends, and good books, to wear off,—without such an effect being produced in stifling the conscience and hardening the heart, as to render the whole business of religion, so far as it depends on our own efforts, unspeakably more difficult than it would have been **SEVEN YEARS AGO.**

[*Youth's Magazine.*

#### BIBLE SOCIETIES.

B. S. OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, (VIRGINIA.)

*Extracts from the Third Annual Report, May 16, 1817.*

When your managers were appointed to office there were on hand *eighteen* Bibles, and *six* German New Testaments,

In addition to these *one hundred* Bibles have been procured from the Bible Society of Philadelphia. There are now on hand sixty-one Bibles, and six German New Testaments. Fifty-seven Bibles is therefore the number that have been distributed during the last year. A considerable portion of these have been given to people of colour; and others, it is hoped, can be induced to learn to read and receive the Scripture. The whole number distributed by the society since its commencement, is two hundred and thirty nine Bibles, and six German New Testaments. The demand for the Bible within this county, is considerably diminished, and we can now aid the funds of some other society whose sphere of operation is more extensive than our own. Your Managers recommend to this society, by adopting the necessary alteration in the Constitution, to become an Auxiliary to the American Bible Society. This National Society was organized on the 8th of May, 1816, previous to the date of our last report, but official information of it had not then been received. This is an event of great importance to the interest of Bible Societies in this country. It will operate as a bond of union among the local Societies; and through its agency, concentration will be given to their exertions: and, "concentrated action is powerful action." Most of those organized during the last year, with a considerable number of those previously in operation, are Auxiliaries to the National Society.

We trust, that under the guardian care and protection of Jehovah Jesus, Bible Societies will continue to be surrounded by such an atmosphere of purity and love as will effectually repel the bitter zeal of unhallowed bigotry; that no tincture of party spirit will be permitted to poison this fountain of joy and peace; that no secta-

rian feelings will sever the bonds by which the friends of these Institutions are now united ; that no discouragements will damp their zeal, nor difficulties retard their progress, till all nations shall enjoy, not merely the morning dawn, but the meridian splendours of the Sun of righteousness. There is indeed a limit of their progressive improvement—the general diffusion of the holy volume. But to reach this limit, is the object of their highest ambition. From this limit, with ineffable delight, they may look round on the millions of mankind, lately famishing for the bread of life, now reposing in their Father's house, with *bread enough, and to spare*. Beyond this limit, when it will require more time, and care, and toil, and expense, to find those who need the Bible, than it now does to find Bibles for those who need them ; when nothing but the gleanings of the great harvest shall remain ; and when even these gleanings shall be gathered in ; when their brilliant career shall finally be stopped by finding the Book of God shedding around its benign influence in every house, and cottage, and tent.—This will be the signal for their exultation and triumph. Then putting off the habiliments of this warfare, waged against the powers of darkness, taking up the song of Moses and the Lamb, joining the anthems of a renovated world, they may offer up their devout thanksgivings, their profound adorations to HIM whose wisdom drew the plan, in whose purpose it existed from eternity, who watched over and directed all its movements, and who, when it commenced its progress on earth said, *GRACE, GRACE, unto it !*

Let us not, however, be so far occupied with these delightful anticipations as to forget that this glorious result depends not on miraculous interposition, but on the instrumentality of human agency. Through the divine blessing it depends on the perseverance and diligence with which Bible Societies shall act their part. If a review of the past is calculated to animate our zeal, the future calls, and calls in most impressive accents, for the exercise of that zeal. Though much has been done, yet much, *very much*, remains to be done. Thousands, and tens of thousands have been supplied ; but hundreds of millions yet remain to be supplied. Some of these are within our own bounds, within this country. Let us continue to inquire and search for them ; till we have the pleasure of supplying their wants. We may furnish to some precious souls the light of truth, the only light which can dispel the darkness surrounding the entrance to the tomb. Let us remember the man, who, at his last hour, has not the satisfaction of leaving his children any earthly possession ; let us enable him to leave them a heavenly treasure, the counsels of wisdom, the promises of mercy, to guide their steps, to cheer their hopes, to soothe their anguish when he shall be numbered with the dead. Our annual contribution cannot leave us much poorer ; it may, through the working of the spirit in those who receive it, make them rich in faith, rich in good works, rich towards God, rich in the hopes of a glorious immortality.

*Contributions to the American Bible Society.* 255

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen,

*By order of the Managers,*

JOHN MATTHEWS, Cor. Sec'y

SHEPHERD'S-TOWN, (Va.)

The 1st Article of the Constitution, amended, reads thus:—  
This Society shall be denominated the BIBLE SOCIETY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, and shall be Auxiliary to the *American Bible Society*.



*The Union Bible Society* of Burke County, Georgia, instituted 21st of April, 1814, at Waynesboro', and formerly a branch of the Georgia Bible Society, has recently become auxiliary to the American Bible Society.

Since the organization of the Union Bible Society, its receipts have amounted to \$467.32 cents, and its expenditures to \$200.57 cents. The board have lately sent \$250 to the National Society, and asked for 100 Bibles.

*Officers elected for the current year*—Capt. John Whitehead, President; Rev. John Mc. Vean, Vice President; Mr. Alexander Carter, Treasurer; Dr. Southworth Harlow, Secretary; and eleven other Directors.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The following contributions to the funds of the American Bible Society (not herein before published) have been acknowledged by the Treasurer since the Annual Report in May, viz:

From the Burlington Female Auxiliary Bible Society, \$31 05; the B. S. of Maine, (Mass.) \$447 77; the B. S. of Frederick, (Virg.) \$500; the Fishkill B. S. \$200; the Auxiliary Welsh B. S. of Steuben and Utica and their vicinities, \$200; the Auxiliary B. S. of Lexington, (Virg.) \$200; the Female Auxiliary B. S. of Poughkeepsie, (N. Y.) \$30; the Female B. S. of E. Haddam, (Con.) \$16 50; the Female Auxiliary B. S. of Washington, (Pa.) \$100; the Auxiliary B. S. in the County of Middlesex, (Mass.) \$200; the Fayetteville B. S. (N. C.) \$150; the Mercer B. S. (Pa.) \$39; the Union B. S. of Burke County, (Geor.) \$250; the Newark B. S. (N. J.) \$150; the Auxiliary Female B. S. of Caledonia, Genessee County, (N. Y.) \$60; the St. Lawrence Female Auxiliary B. S. (N. Y.) \$74; also from William B. Crosby, Esq. executor of the will of Mary M'Crea, late of New-York, \$250; and from Isaac Heyer and George Griswold, collected in the first Ward, New-York, \$511.

From the following individuals, constituting themselves *Directors for life*, viz. Mr. William Wilson of N. Y. (in addition to \$30 before paid,) \$120; Mr. John V. Varick, of do. \$150; Mr. William Bayard, of do. \$150; Peter Augustus Jay, Esq. of do. \$150; also from Mr. Thomas Ward, of do. \$100; Hon. William Tilghman, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, \$100; also, *thirty dollars* from the following persons, as *members for life*, viz. Rev. James Milnor, of N. Y.; Rev. Timothy Clowes, of Albany; Mr. A. C. Zabriskie,

of N. Y.; Rev. Arthur J. Stansbury, of Albany; Elisha Ely, of N. Y.; S. N. S. Wilder, of Boston; D. Fanshaw, of N. Y.; and from William Jay, Esq. of Westchester, as *Director for one year*, \$15; Elisha Boudinot, Esq. of Newark, N. J. do. do.;—also contributions of *thirty dollars* each to constitute the following clergymen *members for life*, viz. Rev. I. P. Williams, by the First Ecclesiastical Society in Mansfield, (Con.); Rev. Herman Humphrey, by several ladies of Fairfield, (Con.); Rev. Zebulon Ely, by the Female B. S. of Lebanon, (Con.); Rev. James Noyes, by ladies of the 1st Society in Wallingford, (Con.); Rev. Nathaniel S. Prime, by the “Cambridge Society of Young Men for charitable purposes;” Rev. William F. Rowland, by the church at Exeter, (New Hampshire); Rev. Nathaniel G. Huntington, by the Female Charitable Society in Woodbridge, (Con.); Rev. E. Cornelius, by Dr. Elias Cornelius of Somers, (N. Y.); Rev. Jesse H. Turner, and Rev. Colin M' Iver, by the ladies of Fayetteville, (N. C.); Rev. Asa King, (\$37 80) by the ladies of North Killingworth, (Con.) Rev. Phiny Dickinson, by “the Ladies Cent Society of the Congregational Church and Society at Walpole,” (N. H.); Rev. Hubal Bartlett, by the ladies of the North Society, East Windsor, (Con.); Rev. Samuel P. Robbins, by a Female Charitable Society in the Congregation at Marietta, (Ohio); Rev. Aaron Dutton, by a number of ladies of the First Ecclesiastical Society in Guilford, (Con.);—and a number of ladies of the Congregation of St. George’s Church, New-York, have contributed *one hundred and fifty dollars* to constitute their pastor, the Rev. James Milnor, a *Director for life*.

Also, sundry collections made in different Congregations, and small sums from individuals.

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**BIBLICAL LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.**

The following donations have been made since the last account published, 17th May; viz.

*By Hon. Elias Boudinot, President of the Society*—The Four Gospels in Latin and French, translated by Sarcy, with engravings, designed by Moreau le jeune.—Printed by the young Didot, Paris, 1793;—4 vols. large octavo, elegantly bound and gilt.

*By Messrs. D. & G. Bruce*.—A stereotype copy of the School Bible, New-York, 1810; and a stereotype copy of the New Testament, New York, 1814: both executed at their Foundery; being the first examples of the Scriptures stereotyped in the United States.

*By Mr. Isaac Collins*.—An English Bible, quarto, with Sternhold & Hopkins’ Psalms set to music.—Imprinted by Robert Barker, London, 1630.

*By Mr. James Olmstead*.—The Bible in Latin, by Tremellius & Junius, and Theodore Beza, (with the Psalms in English metre, by Sternhold, Hopkins, and others) one vol. 12 mo. London, 1655.

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The Standing Committee of the Board of Managers of the American B. S. request, that Societies, in giving orders for Bibles, designate in a particular manner the mode of conveyance the most expedient or desirable, and the agents to whom they desire the packages to be addressed.